

Valerie P. Boykin Director

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Department of Juvenile Justice

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March 23, 2020

Parents / Family Members
Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center Residents

Dear Parents and Family Members,

First of all, let me say that all residents are well. I am writing to provide you with an update on an employee matter mentioned in my earlier letter of March 16. I am happy to report that the Bon Air JCC based employee who was being tested for the COVID 19 virus has received word that the test results were negative.

While this is good news, we know that we must keep up our efforts to practice safety lessons. We are continuing our hand-washing, medical screenings and expanded cleaning across the campus. In addition, we are educating youth about the virus and how to stay safe.

The Yvonne B Miller school remains closed per order of the Governor. Youth have received their individualized learning / enrichment packets and Educators are coordinating the assignments and review with residential staff. The federal government has relaxed the Standard of Leaning requirements and state DOE has postponed the SOL tests. Today, the Governor extended the school closure until the end of the school year and we will be exploring our options for continued education at Bon Air. We will update you on those plans as they come together.

We continue our efforts to allow youth opportunities to check in with family as often as possible via telephone to make you aware of how they are doing. This is a challenging time for all of us and it is important that they know how you are doing. We ask that you reassure them and try to keep them calm.

We want to stress that you are considering safe measures for you and your other family members. Representatives of the Virginia Department of Health have been working with us. They have indicated that community spread of the virus is occurring in our area and in many parts of the state. VDH has asked that we all self monitor for symptoms. Some individuals are experiencing mild symptoms that appear similar to allergies and others are experiencing gastro-intestinal issues. In addition to monitoring for the other symptoms, please get checked out if you have the following symptoms: fever, dry cough and chest pain.

Thank you, again, for working with us during this COVID 19 pandemic. It is our aim to keep you informed and provide updates as often as possible. We have added a page to our website to provide

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information to parents and stakeholders. We will be posting answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) here. You can access the page at http://www.djj.virginia.gov/pages/about-djj/covid.htm.

Remember to reach out to your youth's counselor or assigned parole officer for any questions that you may have.

Please be safe!

Sincerely,

Valerie P. Boykin

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Director

C: Angela Valentine, Chief Deputy
Joyce Holmon, Deputy Director of Residential Services
Linda McWilliams, Deputy Director of Community Programs
Melinda Boone, Interim Superintendent / Educational Consultant
Shaun Parker, Residential Program Manager
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Russell Jennings, Bon Air Superintendent
Court Service Unit Directors